(b) To provide better facilities on Bhubaneswar-Vishakhapatnam section (part of the section is in Andhra Pradesh) some trains have been extended from Vishakhapatnam to Bhubaneswar and also Hirakud Express was extended from Bhubaneswar to Vishakhapatnam.

(c) 2805/2806 Vishakhapatnam-Tenali Janambhoomi Express has been extended upto Secunderabad from 01.07.2007. and its load has been augmented from 15 to 21 coaches from July 2007. Introduction of additional train between Vishakhapatnam and New Delhi is however not feasible at present due to operational and resource constraints.

Opening of the Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore railway line to passenger trains

1281. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether after considerable delay and cost-overruns, Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore railway line has been converted into broad gauge for the purpose of plying passenger trains;

(b) whether currently only goods trains are plying in this section;

(c) whether there is a lot of resentment among the public against not opening the Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore railway line to passenger trains;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(e) when it is proposed to open the section to the passenger trains completely?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) On Bangalore-Hassan-Mangalore route, passenger train services have been provided long back on Bangalore-Arsikere-Hassan Section and gauge conversion of Hassan-Mangalore has also been completed and commissioned in phases. However, Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur Ghat section has been commissioned for goods traffic only from May, 2006.

(c) and (d) Commissioner of Railway Safety conducted the statutory inspection of Subramanya Road-Sakleshpur section and gave conditional authorization for opening to passenger services even as representations were being received.

(e) It is proposed now to commence passenger services in December, 2007.

Construction of overbridges in Orissa

†1282. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the status of construction of rail overbridges or flyovers at level crossings in Similia in district Dhenkanal, Chainpal and Boinda in district Anugul and Nirakarpur in Khorda district; and

(b) the up-to-date status of the development, modernisation and upgradation of Shyamacharanpur P.H. Dhenkanal, Talchar Road, Anugul and Boinda railway stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) For work of Road Overbridge (ROB) at Similia, Km. 442/8-10 in lieu of LC No. 39 General Arrangement Drawing (GAD) has been approved. Estimate for Railway portion of work has been sanctioned and tender opened but Detailed Estimate for approaches portion has not yet been sanctioned by State Government.

For ROB at Chainpal at Chainage 490-60 between Budhpark-Telcher on NH 23 (LC No. T-79) GAD for Railway portion has been approved and tender also opened, Detailed Estim

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.